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Good afternoon. My name is Andrew Stern and I am a sophomore at the University of Connecticut. Currently, I am a Political Science and Journalism major with aspirations of attending law school. I am from the neighboring state of Rhode Island where I have lived almost the entirety of my life. Two years ago, I went through the stressful and tedious process of applying to college. I had no idea where I wanted to spend the next four years of my life, yet I knew that there were two aspects that I needed at a bare minimum: a place with great academics and was affordable. After much deliberation, I found the University of Connecticut to be the best option. The reason being that it fulfilled my two requirements. In terms of academics, it was when I applied, and still is, the nineteenth best public school in the country according to 'U.S. News & World Report' and the best public university in New England. When looking at cost, even when comparing it to my \$8,000 annual scholarship from the University of Vermont, UConn was still the most affordable when comparing the out of state price. Unfortunately, this year my tuition saw a dramatic increase, and now with even more cuts potentially along the way, my fear is that it will increase even more. Personally, I am already paying over \$20,000 more than instate students. I could have attended many other public or even private schools for around the same amount. Out of state students are clearly important for the University to help with revenue, but it is simple economics that continuing to increase the price will cause less of a demand. When it comes to academia, the University has evolved into a nationally elite institution and stood as probably the

most significant reason why I chose this school. However, making cuts to UConn will only begin to lessen the institution and out of state students will begin looking at the hundreds of other schools in the region that are pouring money into their public universities and not drowning it of funds, There will be less demand for this University from it's coveted out of state students. The University of Connecticut must have sufficient funds if it wishes to remain competitive and if it wishes to continue to rise as an academic institution. I implore the Appropriations Committee to please consider this.